BUSINESS MEN COMPLAIN.

AROUSED AT THE CLEARING HOUSE TAX ON OUT-OF-TOWN CHECKS.

AN OFT-REPEATED TALE OF PROFITS WIPED OUT OR OF A TRANSFER OF BUSINESS

TO OTHER CITIES. Merchants in this city and bankers in the country towns continue to send The Tribune argely in protest against the new rule, and re the damage it will do to their business, and indicate that many accounts will be transferred where by out-of-town buyers. As usual, The Tribune prints both sides of the question, the views favoring the Clearing House action, as well as those opposing it.

EXPENSIVE AND INCONVENIENT.

To the Editor of The Tribune. As our business is entirely a country business, the Clearing House tax on country checks is a source of great expense to us and much inconvenience. We thank The Tribune for the spirit shown by it, and we hereby indorse any movement that will obviate this seemingly uncalled-for tax.

No. 28 Beekman-st., March 29, 1809.

NOT A PROPORTIONATE TAX.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: We noted with no little regret the rule that

is about to be put into effect by the Clearing House Association of New-York banks, in regard to the assessment of a tax or fee for the collection of "country checks." We do not pretend to express any opinion as to the possible necessity for such rect personal knowledge of the routine of the banking business we could not estimate the expense that has heretofore been met by the banks

It is in order to point out, however, that the tax s now to be assessed for this item upon business en will not be in proportion to the amount of the s done by them, but will be based upon the character of their business. For publishers who have occasion to receive remittances from all parts the country for books and periodicals, and pardicals, the tax will be one of no little moment, and these periodicals, our mails bring us from day to day payments ranging from \$1 upward for single books ordered sent to various parts of the country. The new regulation must very materially inter-fere with the practicability of filling profitably profers of this kind, and will to such extent work to the disadvantage of cultivated people living at listant points.

distant points.

We hope that after a brief experiment the asso ciated bankers (and particularly the managers of banks whose annual dividends show a satisfactory margin of profit on their business as heretofore done) may decide that it is not necessary to trans-

er this expense to their customers.
(2. P. PUTNAM'S SONS
No. 27 West Twenty-third-st., March 30, 1899.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

step, un-American and injurious to the business prosperity of the country at large. The banks of the financial centre of America, all of them prosperous, as the quotation of their stocks proves, out to increase their prosperity at the expense of those who enable them to be prosperous now by ences which all business men keep in them. Let accounts which do not conform to them, but save us from the small potatoes of one-tenth of 1 per throws an uncertainty into every business transac throws an uncertainty into every business transaction of small amounts, for nobody quoting a commodity at a small margin of profit can know beforehand whether it will be paid for with an out-of-town check or not. To quote different prices would be a cumbersome proceeding, and refusing orders, the profits of which would be catenup by a 10 cent charge, would be injurious to any firm attempting such a policy.

The small dealer is not resting on a bed of roses as it is, but managed to cke out a living with the help of our banking facilities, the entry of the rest of the world, truly American in doing away with petty smallness, which the law also refuses to take notice of and so disgusting to the Americans.

rest of the world, that American in doing away with petty smallness, which the law also refuses to take notice of, and so disgusting to the American abroad. Now it seems we are to be subjected to werse annoyances, and that at the instigation of the men at the head of our banks, men to whom we used to look up with pride as representative of what was best and most admirable in this land of ours.

of ours.

The tax on checks is a monopolistic conspiracy which should be resisted by all means, and your crusade against it deserves unstituted praise.

E. LEMCKE.

No. 812 Broadway, March 30, 1809.

A NEW BANKING INSTITUTION.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Our business would be ruined if we had to submit to the tax imposed by the late ruling of the Clearing House, but we do not propose to submit as gracefully as some may. We can hardly conceive a more severe blow to the industrial and commercial advancement in this city, and trust a banking institution on a substantial basis will be organized immediately upon the adoption of the new rule, guaranteeing exchange free, and we shall do our utmost to foster such an undertaking. A bank has the use of a depositor's balance, which must be considerable at all times in the majority of eases, the total amounting to millions in some institutions, the interest of which alone pays for the slight inconvenience of exchange. Exchange cannot be compared with the collection of accounts for obvious reasons, but the proposition calls for a rate on small checks at least that would take more than the profits on all the receipts of a year's business in thousands of cases, and would naturally be a death knell to those firms. We trust your efforts will be successful, as viewing the matter from all positions, we cannot find solace, even for the organizers of the movement, as the end will surely be disastrous even to them.

WAYNE KRATZER & CO.

No. 835 Broadway, March 20, 1839. organized immediately upon the adoption of the

TAXES ENOUGH ALREADY.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Since the tea trade is paying a duty of 10' cents a pound on all teas imported into the United States, it seems hardly right to supplement another tax upon out-of-town checks, which invariably must be subtracted from the seller's prices, thus causing almost twice the amount of capital to conduct a business which heretofore was done on a uniform basis at no larger profit than before the sev eral taxes were imposed. The mere paying of a tax upon out-of-town checks is in itself approved by importers and jobbers, who usually are very

by importers and jobbers, who usually are very lenient toward granting discounts to buyers who pay cash for merchandise.

During the last few years the competition in our trade has been so keen that buyers receive all the benefits. Merchants are free to grant credits, and bankers are cordial toward lending money to merchants, but the difficulty seems to be in the disposition of commercial paper. Old concerns who usually pay cash for merchandise are discontented with the profits, and are gradually withdrawing from business; new concerns take their places and use their credits. If note brokers would buy out-of-town checks at discounts suitable to sellers, a use their credits. If note brokers would buy outof-town checks at discounts suitable to sellers, a
rate might be adjusted by the banks upon whom
the checks are drawn, thus establishing a rate of
credit to out-of-town jobbers.

GEORGE W. DODD, JR.
New-York, March 28, 1889.

A WAY TO MEET THE CHARGE.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Like most business houses in easy circumstances we carry an unnecessarily large balance at our bank. When it amounts to more than we consider advisable we transfer a portion to a trust company, which allows us interest. Some trust company, which allows us interest. Some time since, when our bank insisted upon unfair charges in another direction, we submitted thereto (as indeed we had to do, or transfer a bank account a quarter of a century old), but we transferred to the trust company an amount upon which a year's interest would equal the item objected to. Now we propose to do the same thing, viz., to transfer to a trust company an amount the interest on which will equal the charges for collection of country checks. Yours faithfully.

SMALL CORPORATION.

New-York, March 30, 1899.

SPECIAL PRIVILEGES OF BANKS.

To the Editor of The Tribune Sir: The rule affects me injuriously. It is not possible to insist on getting from remitters New york funds, or to charge up collection fees to customers' accounts. Consequently the charge for collecting out-of-town checks falls on my law not well enough informed as to bank profits to destruct termine whether or not there is any necessity of collection charges, but I am sure it is unwise for banks to make the charges if they can possibly help banks to make the charges if they can possibly help assertion call attention to the condition of these arealy to see the "Country Cashier" make a reply to the "City Cashier" seems to be "rubbing it in the City Banks as perfectly proper.

The CHARGES EXORBITANT.

The CHARGES EXORBITANT.

The CHARGES EXORBITANT.

The Charges make a reply t Sir: The rule affects me injuriously. It is not

it. Bankers have privileges which are the subject of questioning, especially National banks, and the more onerous their rules to depositors seem to be, the stronger will grow the movement to abolish their special relations.

New-York, March 30, 1890.

UNJUST AND UNREASONABLE.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The new rule of the Cleating House is un just and unreasonable, and will affect my business to a great extent, as I shall have to bear the brunt of the tax from my own po ket. The small de ler will not pay 10 cents for the \$2 or \$1 checks is simply a monopoly of the stockholders and Clearing House, and if the business people will Clearing House, and if the business people will submit to this outrage they m v raise this tax higher yet, under some preject. Now they say that the banks lose the discount during the time the outside check is collected, to t means, simply, they make so much less profit on of their patrons, I believe that a good many small dealers will withdraw their deposits, and that many private banks, as trustworthy as the others, will be established all over the country

No. 42 Avenue C, March 30, 180.

A PERSONAL LOSS.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: As I am in receipt of heeks for small mounts from different parts of the country, the venience, but also a direct loss in money, as I would have to pay the tax per onally; and that means so much off my profit on the goods sold.

No. 49 Sixth-ave., March 30, 1896.

A DELIBERATE HOLD UP.

To the Editor of The Tribune Sir: The new rule of the Clearing House amounts to a deliberate hold-up, so far as I am concerned The subscription price of "Recrea ion" is \$1 a year and I receive thousands of checks on country banks, each to that amount. I am advised by the eashler of the bank where I deposit that here after I will be required to pay 10 per cent for co lecting each of these checks. What would a mer chant say to having his stock asse sed at 19 per cent of its actual cash value for taxation pur-poses? I earnestly hope you may win in your fight against the Clearing House. G. O. SHI LLDS. Editor and Manager & "Recreation." No. 19 West Twenty-fourth-st., March 29, 1886.

"WILL RESULT DISASTROUSLY."

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: We believe "The Plumbers' Trade Journal" will voice the sentiment of the eatire trade press when we state that we consider this a wrule, it ess interests and result disastracity. sire to enter our earnest protest at the netion of the Clearing House Association, and sincerely hope that the matter will be reconsidered. If there be deposits in banks outside of the city we be make deposits in banks outside of the dry we be-lieve that a large amount of the usiness will be taken from the metropolitan banks that levy a tax on country checks. When the War Revenue tax and this new tax are figured up the amount assumes such proportions as to amaze us, and in behalf of the trade press of this city. T. Plumb-ers' Trade Journal' urges the repeal of this coun-try-check tax.

Try-check tex.

Thanking The Tribune for the spirit and energy it is displaying in an effort to avercome this outrageous procedure on the part of the Cica ing House Association, we remain, very respect-filly yours, "THE PLUMBERS TRADE JOURNAL."

No. 61 Beekman-st., March 30, 1809

A BREWING TRADE PAPER'S DIFFEST.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: You may place "The Browers Journal" or record as emphatically opposed to the proposed charge by banks in this city on the conection of out-of-town checks. We consider the this is an imposition on any mercantile house doing busing with parties out of town, but especially publish who receive constantly so many small checks the subscriptions and small advertisements, and of all afford such a toll as the banks levy on the collection. The banks pay no interest on deposition of the collection of the collection of the collection of the collection of the collectic of out-of-town checks.

"THE BREWERS JOURNAL"

No. 24 Park Place, March 20, 1899.

"SIMPLY OUTRAGEOUS."

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The rule of the Clearing House with regard to a tax on country checks affects our business most injuriously. The annual subscription for Wine and Spirit Gazette 'is \$2. Thousands of two-doliar checks from all parts of the United States are sent to us every year for subscriptions. Under the arbitrary ruling of the Clearing House we would lose 10 cents on each of these checks. The charge for collection is simply outrageous. lose 10 cents on catal of the for collection is simply outrascous. for collection is simply outrascous. THE WINE AND SPIRIT GAZETTE."

Kembie Building, Whitehall-st. March 30, 1899.

COUNTRY BANKERS OPPOSED.

THE RULE UNJUST AND ANNOYING OTHER CITIES WILL REAP THE BENEFIT

SHALL HAVE TO GIVE UP NEW-YORK. To the Editor of The Tribune

Sir. We feel quite disturbed over the action taken by the New-York Clearing House and at the prospect as it now looks. It puts us on the de-fensive and we shall try to do the best we can to conserve the interests of our customers. Our bank had as good arrangements for collecting such cost of collecting out-of-town checks. Banks should compensate customers liberally for balances checks and items as come to it as any country bank need desire, and we naturally very much dislike to have them broken up. We have not yet checks is and always has been an absolute necessity in legitimate banking. The New-York Clearing House has done right and banks in other localities must follow suit or loss money. Banks that offer free collecting are, as a rule hard up for money and the weakest in the country, records prove this by those already "busted. When the business men understand this they will no doubt seek the safest channels for collecting their teems and be willing to pay accordingly and approve of the plan of charging. FRANK MERZ, Cashier.

Union Trust Company.

Jamestown, N. Y. March 30, 1869. decided what course to take and cannot decide until after the Boston banks shall announce their in-

d action in the same matter. If New-York banks insist upon charging the rates If New-York banks insist upon charging the rates proposed it is very probable that we shall feel obliged to establish connections with banks in the different business centres of the country from which we are daily receiving letters offering to make our collections at lower rates than New-York proposes to charge upon items on those same places. New-York proposes to charge one-tenth of 1 per cent for collecting items on Fall River. This bank would be glad to collect such items at a much smaller charge than that, and shall expect to receive them direct from other points, particularly from cotton centres through the South. It would seem to me that the New-York banks will be the losers of much business from the above-indicated causes.

causes.

We shall expect to furnish our own depositors with cashler's draits on New-York with which to pay their own bills, and shall try in every way to make the burden of this miserable rule to be enforced by your banks as light as possible for them.

CHARLES B. COOK.

Cashler Metacomet National Bank.

Fall River, Mass., March 39, 1839.

UNWISE AND NOT GOOD BUSINESS. To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I have always supposed and believe it to be true that as a rule a uniform rate is charged for the collection of country checks, as well as the rate paid on country bank balances, yet I have no doubt that both the rate of interest on balances and the charges for collection of checks are regulated to a great extent by the value of the account to the bank with which it is carried. Certainly it is so in our own case. We have customers who carry large average balances and who deposit occasion ally with us checks which it now costs us exchange to collect, and we make no charge to them for it, able that deposit with us a larger number of checks that it costs us to collect and we charge such expenses to them. I have no doubt this same rule ap

that it costs us to collect and we charge such expenses to them. I have no doubt this same rule applies to the large banks in New-York City. Boston and elsewhere. It seems to me, therefore, that the officers of every bank ought to be the best judges of the value of their depositors' accounts and the amount of liberality with which they can be treated. In my opinion the action of the New-York Clearing House in fixing an arbitrary rate on all checks is unwise and not good business policy.

I appreciate that the collection of country checks is a great burden on the city banks, and personally I have always contended that all country banks ought to remit for checks on themselves at par on receipt of same, if sent to them by other banks, the same as they would pay said checks if presented at their counter. I have always believed that an effort would be made sooner or later by the city banks to restrict the use of country checks, and that a disposition shown by the country banks to make the burden as light as possible would tend to prevent any such action. Certainly country banks could better afford to remit for checks sent them by the city banks without charge, especially as in many cases one remittance would cover a large number of checks, than they could to have the demand for cashier's drafts largely increased among their depositors, as under such circumstances it would largely increase the clerical work in issuing cashier's drafts to its customers. C. Fitchburg, Mass, March 30, 1859.

COUNTRY BALANCES SOURCE OF STRENGTH To the Editor of The Tribune

Sir: I have been deeply interested in your articles lately in reference to the new ruling by the Clearing-House Association, especially so in the argument between the "Country Bank Cashler" and the "New-York City Cashler" Being a country banker myself. I was, of course, waiting to see the "Coun-

banks during the recent paule, when the banks in Boston and Philadelphia could not loan their cus-tomers amounts they needed, but were slow in re-mitting for country checks sent by the New-York banks." The "Country Cashier" has a very good argument to meet this. I was waiting to see it, but it did not come. argument to meet this. I was watting to see it did not come.

Thinking it was too good a chance to be lost, I took the liberty of replying to it myself. I think the "City Cashier" does not stop to think a minute. If he did he would see that one, and perhaps the principal reason, why the New-York banks breasted the recent panics in so much better condition than those in Boston, Philadelphia or other citles was on account of the enormous balances the country banks were carrying with their New-York correspondents.

A COUNTRY BANKER.

Waterbury, Conn., March 31, 1869.

SKINNING THE HORIZON.

bank pass through the New-York Clearing House, and I presume in this respect most Eastern and

on the greater number of checks drawn on all

whose checks the association is discriminating

maintain balances of millions of dollars in New-

York. This line of balances is the safest, most im-

portant and least annoying of all varieties of de-

posit accounts. The "reserve balances" are very valuable to the city banks and are eagerly solicited

One of the largest banks in the city of New-York

Payments of collections out of this city are as a

rule advised by our correspondents, but if not ad-

vised are charged up and endorsers credited sub-

fect to reversal, after allowing a reasonable time

that this bank does not credit out-of-town items until it is reasonably certain it has received pay-

ment and credit for them. There is no apparent

ne good thing may, however, to sale getally increasing ecially in the country, a steadily increasing near of persons who either have no bank action or else prefer to bank in the nearest large. Usually the banks accommodate these people in eashing occasional checks and make no cashing occasional checks and make no the local banks as in some way created by a the local banks as in some way created by a contract the local banks as in some way created by a contract of the local banks as in some way created by a contract of the local banks as in some way created by a contract of the local banks as in some way created by a contract of the local banks as in some way created by a contract of the local banks as in some way created by a contract of the local banks as in some way created by a contract of the local banks as in some way created by a contract of the local banks as a contract of the local banks as a contract of the local banks as a contract of the local banks are contracted by a contract of the local banks are contracted by a contract of the local banks are contracted by a contract of the local banks are contracted by a contract of the local banks are contracted by a contracted

oder the local banks as in some way created by a cool government and obliged by law to cash checks

d nature are much abused.
OLIVER I. SHERWOOD.
Cashler Southport National Bank.
Southport, Conn., March 30, 1899.

ACCOUNTS WILL BE OPENED ELSEWHERE.

Sir: So far as I have been able to ascertain, the

Hudson River, it is not favorable to the action of

the New-Yerk Clearing House Association in com-

relling every bank in the city to collect a fixed arbitrary charge on every iten deposited with them for collection, except such as may be payable

in a few favored cities.

This sentiment is explained by the fact that a

large part of the burden of the tax or charge to be

imposed will fa upon the country banks, which

imposed will fat upon the country banks, which have no clearing association to back them up, and must continue to face the question of individual competition. Many will be obliged to open accounts in Eoston. Philadelphia and Chicago, and keep balances in these cities, where their collection items will be credited at par. It is quite probable that a very large number of banks throughout the East, which have had their chief correspondents in New-York, will hereafter look to other centres, and the aggregate effect will be injurious to New-York.

President Fallkill National Bank.
Poughkeepsle, N. V., March 20, 1829.

SHOULD BE MUTUAL COMPENSATION.

Sir: Customers should compensate banks for the

remaining on deposit. A charge for collecting

checks is and always has been an absolute neces-

SHOULD MAKE A REASONABLE CHARGE.

Sir: We believe that the New-York banks should make a reasonable charge for outside checks.

This charge must be paid by the drawer of the

check, which is also right. He is the one who is

benefited by not having to pay the check for sev-

benefited by not having to pay the check for sev--al days while in transit. People are apt to re-gard a bank as a charitable institution. We know from our own standpoint that the collection of outside checks is a burden of expense. This being so, how much greater the expense to a New-York City bank that receives thousands of outside checks daily?

AMSDEN BROTHERS, Bankers.

Rochester, N. Y., March 39, 1809.

A DETRIMENT TO ALL BANKS.

Sir: We have already had propositions from sev

eral banks in New-York City who are not gov-

erned by the Clearing House Association, also

from several banks in Philadelphia, who offer to

accept at par our country checks. Should we accept

any of these propositions at least 50 per cent of our business would be withdrawn from New-York. In case any of our customers should accept propositions made them by the city banks, in which they offer to accept at par any or all country checks they may send them, it would result in a loss of business to us. We believe it would be to the detriment of all New-York City banks belonging to the Clearing House Association, as well as all country bankers, should the new rule of the Clearing House be enforced. E. A. DUNHAM & CO., Fankers, Montour Falls, N. Y., March 30, 1829.

PHILADELPHIA OFFERING LIBERAL TERMS.

Sir: Regarding the new rule of the New-York Clearing House as to the tax on country checks,

It certainly seems a small and shortsighted policy and I should think the result would be less ac

counts kept in New-Fork, or, sirely, much smaller accounts. Philadelphia and Boston banks will be much benefited, as much larger accounts will be kept in these cities, where the banks can act independently and accept country cheeks on deposit, without charge. Philadelphia banks are trying for the accounts of banks about here, and will no doubt receive many new depositors, as they offer the most liberal terms.

BENJAMIN H. FABANS.

President Naumkeag National Bank.
Salem, Mass., March 30, 1829.

MORE IN PHILADELPHIA, LESS IN NEW-

YORK.

Sir; The action of the New-York Clearing House

on taxing county checks concerns us just to this

extent: Our Philadelphia correspondent will take

checks and collection items discriminated against by New-York banks on terms New-York banks have required in the past. We will have to keep larger balances in Philadelphia to compensate for the accommodations. This increase in Philadelphia account will necessarily reduce our New-York balance.

Casnier National Bank of Cortland.

Cortland, N. Y. March 39, 1864.

ounts kept in New-York, or, surely, much small-

of these propositions at least 50 per cent of

To the Editor of The Tribune.

To the Editor of The Tribune

To the Editor of The Tribune.

to the Editor of The Tribune.

To the Editor of The Tribune

entiment of the bankers in this city and along the

To the Editor of The Tribune.

to receive notice of non-payment."

oss of interest in such business.

opinion is extant. The claim of the New-

Central country banks would show a like record. The action of the association in placing on the

Sir: A large proportion of checks drawn up

To the Editor of The Tribune.

to save our cultomers and ourselves from the ex-pense of the collection fees. CALVIN SOLLIDAY.

President Lambertville National Bank. President Lambertville Na Lambertville, N. J., March 29, 1899.

WHY NOT DISCRIMINATE IN ACCOUNTS.

To the Editor of The Tribune. A country bank carrying in its New-York bank an average daily balance of \$75,000 at I per cent, for the reserve and collection facilities thereby afforded in the par credit of \$1,500 to \$2,000 a day in outside items, besides the New-York City items, many of which cost the New-York banks nothing, will, of course, be unfavorably affected by the new and rigid rule. We think it will result in driving much desirable husiness away from your city. It seems up here practicable and reasonable to discriminate in terms for collections, according to the value, size and kind of account kept, as is done in loans, sales or other sorts of business.

WILLIAM G. TWING.

President Holyoke National Bank.

Holyoke, Mass., March 39, 1899.

WILL CLOSE ONE OF ITS NEW-YORK AC-

COUNTS. To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Regarding the action of the New-York Clear-

cities. It is not surprising that some difference of ing House, we would say that from circular letters received from Boston, Philadelphia and Chianks that it takes time and trouble to handle ters received from boston, cago banks it would seem probable that this bank would close one of its accounts in New-York City and open an account in one of the above-named places, enjoying better accommodations than here-tofore extended by New-York City banks.

LITTLE FALLS NATIONAL BANK.

Little Falls, N. Y., March 30, 1899. these checks, and, when they are received and plausible and perhaps reasonable. Handling checks ness of a bank, and the country banks against

IRONCLAD AND UNFAIR.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Regarding the effect of the new rule of the New-York Clearing House for collecting country checks it is perhaps too early to state, but it looks ance and possible loss to us in our business. It seems unfair in its ironclad application, without seems unrair in its froncind application, which reference to the value of a customer's account, am not sure, but the tendency will be to deprive country banks of their best accounts, as such customers may be compelled to open city account if we have to furnish New-York exchange for our customers, it will be without compensating return Cashier Lee National Bank.

WILLING TO PAY A FAIR PRICE.

The New-York bankers as a rule may be relied upon to intercept their just proportion of whatever To the Editor of The Tribune. profits are involved in any transactions within their Sir: We approve the act of the bankers of your ity in refusing longer to collect country checks free of charge. We are willing to pay a fair price There is no doubt who will reap the benefit of hese charges, but it is interesting to note who will have them. It is reasonably obvious that it must come from the profits of the dealer and not from he pocket of the consumer. Competition will not permit the seller to compel payment in New-York exchange, and country banks will not furnish exchange free of charge to any but very desirable instead.

tor the service and risk that the collection of our remittances requires. C. A. LINEHEAD, Cashier. Bank of North Collins. North Collins, N. Y., March 30, 1899. NO REASON FOR THE EXTRA CHARGE. Achange, and consider to any but very distance free of charge to any but very distancers.

Assuming that the action of the Clearing House was well taken, I can regard it only as an annoyance to the general business of the country, and so an impediment to the existing facilities for purhase and exchange between distant points, and when one reflects that the integrity of these facilities is radical to the vitality, development and rower of the city banks, it would appear as though they were taking almost everything in sight down to the horizon.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: We most seriously object to the new rule of the Clearing House with regard to tax on country checks. We have yet to see any very good reacity banks may say that the checks make them a large amount of work in collecting, etc. The same is true of the country banks. They are compelled to do a large amount of work by reason of checks being given and paid and entered upon the books

of the country bank. We have yet to see where any of the city banks We have yet to see where any of the city banks have been seriously affected by collecting checks given to merchants in your city without expense. It will recessitate the payment by New-York draft of the debts owing to merchants and others in your city, and it may result in changing the correspondents to some other State.

I trust that the rule which the Clearing Louse has adopted may be revoked, not only in the interest of the country banks but of the merchants of the city of New-York. M. V. BENSON.

President People's State Bank.

East Randolph, N. Y., March 30, 1860.

RESERVES GOING TO OTHER CITIES. To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The effect of the Clearing House rule has of as yet been produced, as the act does not take effect until April 3, but in my opinion must necessarily cause the removal from New-York banks of large amounts (in the aggregate) York banks of large amounts (in the aggregate) of the reserve from the country banks, as other reserve cities are making offers to country banks to take their business upon the same basis as the New-York banks have formerly done.

We are daily in receipt of such offers, hence the result must inevitably be as above stated.

President Adirondack National Bank.

Saranac Late, N. Y. March 30, 1809.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Regarding the tax on country checks

and their other customers must lose, un-York.

My own opinion is that New-York should make some sacrifices for the sake of retaining her fluancial and commercial supremacy, and that the combination of the Clearing House banks, for the enbination of the Clearing House banks, for the forcement of such a general, arbitrary rule as the forcement of such a general, arbitrary rule as the forcement of such a general, arbitrary rule as the forcement of such a general, arbitrary rule as the forcement of such a general, arbitrary rule as the forcement of such a general, arbitrary rule as the forcement of such a general arbitrary rule as the forcement of such a general arbitrary rule as the forcement of such a general arbitrary rule as the forcement of such a general arbitrary rule as the forcement of such a general arbitrary rule as the forcement of such a general arbitrary rule as the forcement of such a general arbitrary rule as the forcement of such a general arbitrary rule as the forcement of such a general arbitrary rule as the forcement of such a general arbitrary rule as the forcement of such a general arbitrary rule as the forcement of such a general arbitrary rule as the forcement of such a general arbitrary rule as the forcement of such a general arbitrary rule as the forcement of such as t which we did not before, and that throws the is the most convenient now for the buyers all | To the Editor of The Tribune.

over the country, who can trade anywhere, and pay in their own check at no cost to them or the seller.

I think other banks will make it an object to remove part of our accounts, and only deposit in Clearing House banks checks they will take at par.

J. P. PITCHER, Cashier First National Bank.

Boonville, N. Y., March 30, 1832.

IN LINE WITH THE TRUSTS. To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: We are of the opinion that the action of the Clearing House in regard to collecting country hecks is in line with the recent "fad" of the whole country to form a trust, and to make the business of the rural part of the country poorer, and to injure the business of the country banks. We are receiving daily circulars from banks in Boston, Chicago and Philadelphia offering inducements to us which will relieve us from the action of the New-York W. E. NORTHRUP.

President Central Bank.

Onelds, N. Y. March 30, 1809.

A HEAP OF TROUBLE COMING.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: This matter of collection charges on country becks is all right in theory, but it will make a heap o' trouble for somebody before it is adjusted. The difficulty has arisen from the abuse of the par point system by those entitled to it, and the un-warranted extension of it by competing banks in New-York City in the scramble for business. Now it would appear that the change will work to the benefit of the strong New-York banks and the hurt of the weaker ones. It places all banks on a evel, and only in the matter of interest on balances an one institution bid over another. The country can one institution hid over another. The country bank with two New-York accounts will be apt to close one of them and open in Philadelphia, Chicago or some other convenient reserve city. The country merchant, should his New-York dealer excet the exchange charge from him, will be apt to find a market in which the seller will take his checks at par. Many other changes will take place, but we shall have to wait and "see what we shall see."

Cashier First NationalBank.

Winsted, Coun., March 30, 1890.

THANKS FOR THE TRIBUNE'S STAND.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I want to thank you for the stand you have taken in relation to the new rule of the Clearing House as to the collection of country checks. The tax imposed is unbusinesslike, unfair and unjust, and I think will soon be reconsidered when the question is fully understood. Country banks will make an arrangement with some sound financial institution not under the thumb of the gigantic trust known as the New York Clearing House to take their collections and deal with them upon the old basis, under which the New-York City banks have prospered so greatly in the past. Unless the resolution is reconsidered it will be a hardship and loss to many business men in and around New-York.

President White Plains Bank.

White Plains, N. Y., March 30, 1839. make an arranger out with some sound financial

PHILADELPHIA AS GOOD AS NEW-YORK

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: We don't think the new rule will make any particular difference with us. We can collect all of the items we have been sending to New-York in Philadelphia and Boston at par, and Philadelphia

exchange is just as good for us as New-York. We shall send nothing but New-York City items to the city, and our balance will go elsewhere.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

Owego, N. Y., March 30, 1839.

PHILADELPHIA GETS IT.

To the Editor of The Tr'bune. Sir: We expect to send checks received by us sir: We expect to send checks received by us to New-York only on New-York par points, and all else to Philadelphia, or places where we can remit at par by mutual agreement. If New-York objects to this we will make other arrangements, probably sending all to Philadelphia.

QEORGE DAVIDSON.

Cashier Tradesmen's Bank.

Vinciand, N. J., March 50, 1893.

OTHER CHANNELS WILL BE CHOSEN.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: In regard to the charge on country checks idopted by the New-York Clearing House, at this moment it appears to us that the first effect will be to divert considerable balances carried by country banks from the New-York City banks, as the supply to their local customers additionally large amounts of New-York exchange, and presumably without compensation therefor. And, lastly, it is apparent that Boston and Philadelphia, being exceptions and taking collections on trany other points free, will not only obtain bab nees from country banks, but to a considerable degree from the larger country business houses who are now carrying accounts in New-York, and by that method can make their checks on Boston receivable in place of New-York exchange and at the same time enjoy the same facilities for collection as have hitherto been granted them by New-York City. As a whole it is apparent that it will throw back upon the country a very large burden, which it seems hardly proper for them to be compelled to assume.

PRED C. EDDY.

ACCOUNTS WILL BE OPENED ELSEWHERE.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: This bank has already made arrangements by which all our out-of-town items will be collectcharge to us. This arrangement will enable us to continue to offer to our depositors the same privicontinue to offer to our depositors the same privileges they have always had of depositing checks upon all points, without charge for collecting. We cannot yet foresee the effect upon our depositors. They are already receiving notices that hereafter their checks will not be received by certain business houses in New-York City, while other business houses are sending notices that they will continue to receive the checks of their customers, without charge, as heretofore. We look for a speedy seitlement of the whole matter through the opening of accounts by both merchants and out-of-town banks in other cities than New-York.

ROBERT A. PATTESON.

President Tarrytown National Bank.

Tarrytown, N. V. March 29, 1899.

Sir: The new rule of the Clearing House will ompel us to open an account in Boston or Piulawill ask us for drafts to pay their New-York and all ask us for drafts to pay their New-York and other city bills, which we cannot give them without charge, and some of the larger merchants with go to Boston, in place of New-York, to trade. In fact, one of the largest merchants we have told me only vesterday that if his checks were not taken at par in New-York he should trade in Bostaken at par in New-York he should trade in Bostaken at par in New-York he should trade in Bostaken at par in New-York he should trade in Bostaken at par in New-York he should trade in Bostaken at par in New-York he should trade in Bostaken at par in New-York he should trade in Bostaken at par in New-York he should trade in Bostaken and he had been at the country bank will try to stem the tide.

Cashier Old National Bank.

Whitehall, N. Y., March 29, 1899.

WILL DISCRIMINATE AGAINST NEW-YORK.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The immediate effect of the Clearing House rule upon this institution was that we negotiated with Boston banks for the collection of our New-England items, with whom we will keep part of the reserve funds formerly kept in New-York City banks, being allowed the same rate of interest as

in New-York. Our merchants will no doubt be asked to pay Our merchants will no doubt be asked to pay collection charges on checks remitted to New-York in payment for merchandise. A few may open accounts in New-York. A number of prominent merchants bave expressed their intehtion of discriminating against New-York wherever possible in purchasing their supplies. Many no doubt will purchase from their banks here, at a lower rate, drafts payable in New-York City, instead of sending their own checks as heretofore. Many banks in the smaller towns in this vicinity are likely to retailate by charging their New-York correspondents exchange on items formerly collected at par.

Cashler First National Bank.

Trenton, N. J., March 30, 1899.

WILL DRIVE BUSINESS FROM NEW-YORK. To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Concerning the new rule of the Clearing

House in regard to the country checks I would say that it will affect our business to a considerable extent, on account of the parents of the students of Princeton University sending them checks and drafts payable all over the United States. have been in the habit of sending many of these items to our New-York correspondent, but the new phia and other points, and chacks as we are com-for the exchange on such checks as we are com-pelled to send to New-York. It is our opinion that the effect of this rule will be to drive a great deal of business that is now going through the New-York banks to other points.

S. H. BLACKWELL, Cashier First National Bank.

Princeton, N. J., March 3e, 1899.

DETRIMENTAL TO COUNTRY BANKS.

Sir: In my opinion, the new rule of the Clearing House will be detrimental to the interests of country banks. We have never been in the habit of charging our customers collections on any checks charging our customers collections on any checks that they deposited with us, and now if we begin to charge them they will object and take their accounts elsewhere. It is a hard matter to explain to customers the charge for collection, and the majority of them think that the bank makes a clean profit of what they charge. We think the new rule a had one.

Cashier First National Bank.

West Winfield, N. Y., March 30, 1899.

THESE BANKERS APPROVE.

THE CLEARING HOUSE RULE DECLARED JUST AND BUSINESS-LIKE.

THE BANKS JUSTIFIED.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The action of the New-York banks will no affect us, as we send nothing to our New-York correspondent but New-York items. All of our Eastern and Southern items are collected through Albany, and they do not propose to make any change. The New-York merchants should and will have to stand the cost of collection on the checks they receive from the country. I think the New-York banks are justified in their course, as they have paid high rates to collect their out-of-town checks.

Cashier Farmers and Merchants' State Bank, Oneida, N. Y., March 30, 1899.

SHOULD BE PROFIT IN COLLECTION. To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: We expect customers will buy New-York exchange instead of sending checks to pay bills. Country banks will be disposed to send checks direct, instead of to New-York. We see no consistency in banks crediting as cash checks at par on points where it takes at least one and often two weeks to realize on same, and then at a cost of from one-tenth to one-half of one per cent, the from one-tenth to one-half of one per cent, the depositor always drawing funds at his pleasure, and often before checks leave deposit bank. If accounts are worth interest, pay it, but do not make collection department stand the cost. Collections should pay a profit as well as any other branch of banking. We believe that country banks are more largely affected than New-York merchants, as many of the banks have had the privilege of dumping all their items, generally speaking, into the New-York banks at par, and now they must find other means of collection varying from one-tenth to one-eighth of one per cent, and must protect themselves by charging customers. No bank should be expected to do any part of its business at a loss. On the part of the New-York banks we consider it r move simply to cover the expense of collections which they have for years patiently borne and cannot consistently continue.

L. H. (RODESBECK,
Cashier Third National Bank.

Syracuse, N. Y., March 30, 1829.

TOO MUCH WORK DONE FREE To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In regard to the new rule of the Clearing House as to the tax on country checks, we would say it is all right. There has been too much work say it is all right. There has been too huch work done by city banks for nothing, and we country banks follow suit by taking in too many of these checks without charge. There is no business class of men who work so cheap as bankers or do so much work without charge.

H. P. KNOWLES & CO. Palmyra, N. Y., March 30 1899.

THE PRINCIPLE A PROPER ONE, To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The new rule of the New-York Clearing House will affect our business to quite an extent, We have for years kept a good balance with the Chemical National Bank, on which they have never allowed us a cent of interest, but we have had the

privilege of passing a reasonable amount of collec-

tions through the account without charge. In this specific instance it is possible that we may pay a little too much for our whistle, but we are very glad to do it, as we think the principle

the business, they certainly are exorbitant in their new arrangement.

G. W. KNOWLTON,

President Warnesst National Bank.
Lowell, Mass., March 39, 1899.

OTHER CHANNELS WILL BE CHOSEN.

is probably very much greater than the charge made for collection on the checkgreceived in payment for such goods, and I do not see why the merchant, who makes the profit, should expect the bank, not only to do his business for nothing, but to contribute toward his expenses.

E. C. M'DOUGAL,

President Bank of Buffale,

Buffalo, March 30, 1899.

SHALL RECEIVE COMPENSATION.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Relative to the new rule of the Clearing House Association regarding the collection of out-of-town checks. I cannot say just how it will atfeet our business, though it will doubtless cause us considerable annoyance and some financial loss, for a time at least. I am satisfied, however, that banks in New-York City and elsewhere should receive compensation for making out-of-lown collections, and that the custom which has widely prevailed in this country for some years past has caused great loss and injustice to the banks. Obviously the nain objection to the Charing House rule is that it is ironclad and inflexible, and does not give banks opportunity to treat the account of each customer upon its merits. At the same time it is quite possible that the plan adopted by the Clearing House Association is the only practicable one under all the circumstances.

President National Hamilton Bank.

Hamilton, N. Y. March 20, 1899. banks in New-York City and elsewhere should re-

TREAT EACH ACCOUNT ON ITS MERITS.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: It does not yet appear that we shall be un-favorably affected by the recent action of the New-York City banks in regard to country checks. It is true that we have been accustomed to send them

certain New-England and New-Jersey checks

which they will not hereafter receive without charge, but we have correspondents outside of also change their rates we are not likely to suffer A day or two ago I saw your paper quoted as saying substantially "that the collection of country emination of the matter will convince you that on nearly all such checks the New York banks have to submit to either a loss of time or actual ex-pense, and frequently both; and when we take into consideration the natural decime in the rate of interest and the enforced decline which our

Athany Solons are endeavoring to bring about in

loss of 2 per per sestimated, they sustain by receiving country checks at per.

Like a good many other reformers they have adopted rather extreme measures which may have to be medified, and their method of remedying the evil to fairly open to question, but it is practically impossible to adopt any tronciad rule that will be strictly equitable to every customer. We have as doubtless all benks have, some customers who keep such liberal balances on deposit that we can very well afford to receive their country dicks without charge and would be glad of an unlimited number of such customers, while, on the other hand, we have many accounts that are not worth the labor, postage and stationers they require, and it really seems to me that it would be better for a bank to treat each account according to its merits, either requiring an average balance proportioned to the amount and character of the country checks offered for deucalt, or else make a fair charge for collecting such checks, or close the account if uprofitable.

Vice-president Bank of Gouverneur,

Gouverneur, N. Y. March 20, 1898.

LET THE CONSUMER PAY. To the Editor of The Tribune

Sir: As to the effect the action of the Clearing House will have on country banks, I will say !! the country banks and their customers. We have the country banks and their customers. We have been asked by some of our customers to furnish New-York exchange for them. We will do so it they pay for it. It costs the country banks 50 cents per \$1,000 to express money to New-York to meet their drafts. However, I think the Clearing House is right. No one but a banker can understand the burden that all banks bear in the collection of checks. Let the consumer pay the freight.

C. CADOGAN.

President Citizens' National Bank. Hornellsville, N. V., March 30, 1890.

collecting country checks may temporarily incon mode us, but in the long run I think it will be argument of those who are advocating the position argument to the argument of the sounder. People generally are not aware of the immense amount of labot, expense and risk cast upon banks by the collection of foreign checks and notes in the matter of stationery, postage and clerk hire. They are certainly entitled to compensation for this work, and ought not to be expected to give credit for the amount collected until they receive it.

THE CHARGE ALL RIGHT. To the Editor of The Tribune.

Morristown, N. J. March 30, 1898.

Sir: The rule of the New-York Clearing House charging to collect checks will not affect our business in the least. It is customary for country banks to charge their customers one-eighth to onequarter of 1 per cent for all out-of-town collections, which is just actual cost, and it is right that New-York banks, as well as all others, should charge what it costs to their customers.

JOHN BENNETT,

Cashler Chemung Valley Bank

Horscheads, N. Y., March 30, 1899.

FASTIDIOUS TASTES are easily satis-



Critical Man. Suits and Top-Coats To Order, from \$16.

Trousers, to order,

from \$5 up.

771 Broadway.

145-147 Bowery. MILK. CREAM and

BUTTER from the

BRIARCLIFF **FARMS**

are unusually rich and nutritious, making breakfast a real luxury.

The Butter is sent regularly to China, and is placed on the table there as fresh as when it leaves the Farms. BRIARCLIFF FARMS,

Seymour Building. 5th Ave. and 42d St., New York.

Gwing to the demand for space in the Sunday Iribune. Advertisers will confer a great favor by sending in . their copy at the carliest moment.